

CSCE NEWS RELEASE

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

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“You Must Be Patient” D'Amato tells Romanians

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Washington, DC—Commission Chairman Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY) met today with key leaders of the Government of Romania, including: Ion Diaconescu, Speaker of the Romanian House of Deputies; Nicolae Galbeni, Chairman of the Romanian Select Intelligence Committee; Tudor Dunca, member of the Romanian House International Relations Committee; and Dan Mircea Geoana, Romania's Ambassador to the United States, to discuss Romania's plans for the future, particularly those issues pertaining to admission to NATO.

Senator D'Amato started by saying, “I am truly pleased to have heard about Romania's recent positive economic developments. These are critically important to improving the image of your country. It is equally important that your government starts and continues to operate as a democracy—without reverting to the repression of the past. That, however, is a picture that is still to be painted.

“NATO admission is an entirely different matter, an issue much bigger than Romania or her concerns. I doubt that any decision will be made in July, but when the decision is made it will be made in consultation with our allies. It is important that Romania presses ahead with its campaign to join NATO; you'll get more support—but be patient.”

“The Helsinki Commission will be holding hearings on NATO enlargement and will release our study well before the NATO Summit. Not everyone will be pleased with the results, but everyone will benefit regardless.”

While Senator D'Amato did not commit to supporting Romania's admission at any particular point in the process, his message was clear: “A democratic Romania with a strong, reformed economy could well be a strategic asset to NATO.”